

OBITUARY

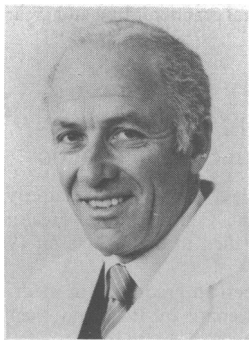
Obituaries of any doctors will be considered for publication provided that the doctors have worked in the United Kingdom for a large part of their career. Obituaries must be submitted exclusively to the BMJ and should be up to about 400 words long. "Self written" obituaries are welcome.

J T IRELAND

MD, FRCPED, FRCPGLAS

Dr J T Ireland, consultant physician in medicine and diabetes at the Southern General Hospital, Glasgow, died suddenly on 17 November aged 55.

John Thin Ireland was the son of a country general practitioner and was educated at Melville



College and Edinburgh University, where he graduated MB, ChB in 1956. After national service in the Royal Army Medical Corps he held posts in medicine and pathology at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and in the university. An early interest in diabetes established the pattern of his subsequent career, and he was one of the earliest workers to use electron microscopy to define the ultra-structure of diabetic nephropathy. In 1966 he was appointed consultant physician in medicine and diabetes at the Southern General Hospital, Glasgow, at an unusually early age. Though he remained faithful to his responsibility as a general physician, he continued to extend his interests in diabetes. No facet of this disease failed to excite him, and he derived as much pleasure from encouraging small local fund raising enterprises as he did from his formal clinical and pathological research.

John was gifted with both manual dexterity and a remarkable facility with the English language. It was natural that he should apply those talents to the cause of diabetes. One outcome was the new system of insulin delivery that he developed in Glasgow, which was the true ancestor of all modern insulin pen injection devices. Another was the journal that he founded and edited with such distinction. The editorial column of *Diabetic Medicine* was a model of clarity, its message conveyed forcibly and with the deceptive simplicity of the expert. Coauthor of a *Colour Atlas of Diabetes*, he was senior author of a mildly idiosyncratic but authoritative manual, *Diabetes Today*.

Vigorous and of compelling presence, John had an almost formal manner born of shyness which barely concealed considerable charm and a warm, tolerant personality with a huge capacity for encouragement and friendship. Even when critical—he was a perceptive and well informed critic—he remained courteous and kind. He had abundant energy; having abandoned the rally driving of student days, he took up and mastered small boat sailing, skiing, and windsurfing at a time when most of his contemporaries were settling for slipped ease. His aptitude for high performance machinery was well known, and he was as at home under a car bonnet as at the bedside.

John is survived by his wife, Sonia, whom he met in Edinburgh and married in Aden when he was serving with the Buffs, and by their three sons, all of whom have followed the family tradition and

two of whom are already qualified in medicine.—JFA, ACM.

BMF writes: For many years John Ireland has been synonymous with diabetes, both nationally and in Scotland. His contributions to the care of diabetic patients at a practical and an academic level were immense, and few physicians in the specialty possess his breadth of vision or his innovative talent. Much time was spent working on local and national committees; his astute common sense, quietly persuasive arguments, and extensive clinical experience and entrepreneurial flair made him a forceful voice to promote the needs of the specialty. He took a paternal interest in his junior colleagues and was always ready to give sage advice and support. Whether chairing scientific meetings, contributing to conferences or committees, teaching undergraduates or paramedical staff, or simply looking after his patients he set and maintained high standards and gave unstintingly of himself.

J G GRAHAM

MD, FRCPGLAS

Dr J G Graham, formerly consultant physician at the Royal Alexandra Infirmary, Paisley, died in a motor accident on 1 December aged 90.

James Gibson Graham was born within earshot of Glasgow University's bells and was educated at Glasgow Academy. His plans to study agriculture were arrested in 1914 by the outbreak of the war, during which he served in France as a commissioned gunner. On demobilisation he elected for medicine, and after graduating MB, ChB in 1923 he joined his father in general practice. At the same time he held junior posts in the Western Infirmary and rapidly acquired a special interest in cardiology and a high reputation as a clinician and teacher. In 1939 he was mobilised as a territorial regimental medical officer but was soon transferred to the General Hospital at Buchanan Castle at Drymen, near Glasgow. When Rudolf Hess made his spectacular landing in the west of Scotland he was held at that hospital, and when a few days later he was transferred to the Tower of London it was Jim who accompanied him in medical charge. The later years of the war Jim spent as lieutenant colonel in medical divisions of hospitals in Egypt.

On demobilisation and the subsequent establishment of the NHS Dr Graham gave up his general practice and opted for a career in hospital medicine, being appointed consultant physician to the Royal Alexandra Infirmary, Paisley. He had great professional skills, modestly carried, but equal gifts of companionship and leadership, which determined the success of a new phase in the life of that hospital. The university accorded him the status of clinical lecturer, and the teaching and the research programmes rendered the unit a popular and profitable attachment for both junior staff and students. The unit participated in the early work on drug treatment for hypertension, and this theme was pursued productively for many years. Graham's personality and sympathy readily established a bond with patients, not least children. His

conversation had a chuckling quality reinforced by an unorthodox but quite characteristic prod with a finger in the region of one's sixth rib.

Jim was a magistrate and an elder at Killearn, to which he retired. There he continued to enjoy trout fishing, gardening, and particularly golf at Buchanan Castle Golf Club. His wife, Elsie, was making a good recovery from their accident but subsequently died on 11 December. They are survived by a married son and daughter and five grandchildren.—ABK.

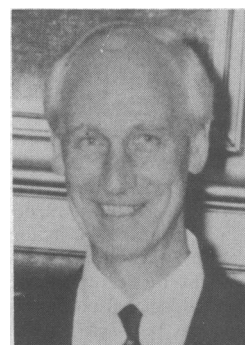
G D BOLSOVER

MBE, BM, BCH

Dr G D Bolsover, formerly a general practitioner in Eynsham, Oxfordshire, died on 4 December aged 67.

George Derrick Bolsover was educated at King Edward's School, Sheffield, and was an

exhibitioner at New College, Oxford, where he graduated in medicine in 1943 and was a member of Vincent's Club. After doing his house jobs at the Radcliffe Infirmary he married Yoma in 1944 and two weeks later was sent to Burma, returning in 1946. He went into general practice in Eynsham in 1947,



where he stayed until his retirement.

It was not until I spent a year as an assistant in general practice with Derrick that I came to understand why he was so loved by his patients and so highly regarded by his colleagues. He was a man of contrasts and contradictions. He had a highly developed sense of humour balanced by empathy and compassion. He could seem vague, but this belied a grasp of medical politics and an incisiveness that led to his chairmanship of many local committees. His quick mind and his wit made him a magnificent chairman. His contribution to medical politics was recognised by the award of the MBE.

There is no doubt that Derrick's philosophy would now be regarded by some as old fashioned. It was important to him to sit and listen to his patients, but he was alert to illness and a good diagnostician. He was slightly puzzled by the rediscovery of holistic medicine, as looking at the whole person was instinctive to him. Rationing of consultation time was not for him: patients were unstintingly given the time they needed.

Throughout his working life he was devotedly supported by Yoma, who formed an essential and integral part of his practice. She survives him with their five children and fifteen grandchildren.—MEP.

AG writes: Derrick Bolsover was closely associated with the reorganisation of the health services in Oxford in 1974 and became a member of the first

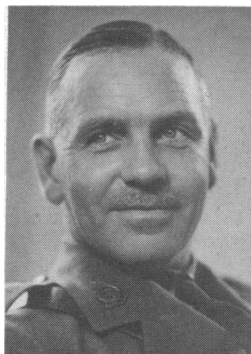
area management team of the large single district teaching area of Oxfordshire. He served for two terms, for eight years in total, during which he was elected chairman of the area medical advisory committee. He believed strongly in the importance of a close partnership between primary and secondary care and worked hard to ensure that general practitioners were aware of the problems of the hospital services and helped to solve them. A wise and thoughtful counsellor and adviser, he kept a careful eye on the bureaucracy of the NHS and did much to support those trying to make the system work. With his gift of a sense of humour he became by a consensus decision the main speech maker at both formal and informal occasions.

M E DALE ROBERTS

MB, BCHIR

Dr M E Dale Roberts, formerly a general practitioner in Gloucestershire, died on 19 September aged 86.

Michael Edward Dale Roberts, the son of a doctor in Gloucester, was educated at Marlborough and Pembroke College, Cambridge, qualifying MRCS, LRCP from Birmingham University in 1926. After hospital appointments in Birmingham he finally joined a practice at Minchinhampton, Gloucester, in 1931 and remained there, but for war service, until his



retirement 32 years later. Volunteering in 1939, he served with distinction in field hospitals, being evacuated at Dunkirk; after a short posting to Sierra Leone he served in Burma for the remainder of the war, attaining the rank of colonel and being mentioned in dispatches. He returned to his practice on demobilisation and was one of that generation of doctors who not only had to rehabilitate themselves to civilian life and practice but were also to steer the new NHS on its way. He saw the trainee assistant scheme as a necessary part of general practitioner training and was an early and vigorous supporter of it. The last of his eight trainees assumed his practice.

Dr Dale Roberts retired to East Sussex to be close to one of his sons, a musician, but he still took a keen interest in country practice. A quiet and thoughtful man, he was devoted to his family and happy with his profession. His words were weighed as one who well understood country life, country ways, and country people. He is survived by his wife, Christabel, and twin sons.—KC.

C H GILL

MB, BS, FRCP

Dr C H Gill, who had been a general practitioner in Hampstead, London, for 33 years, died on 25 November aged 66.

Cyril Hubert Gill graduated in medicine from University College Hospital, London, in 1952 and then went into practice in Hampstead. He was a prominent member and, for a time, secretary of the Balint Society, a group of general practitioners and psychiatrists who carried out research on the interactions during doctor-patient consultations.

He came to explore and utilise the interaction between the patient's personality, his or her personal problems, and the clinical symptoms that were displayed. I knew him well and could feel the intensity of his caring for patients and the degree of unsparring attention that he brought to his profession. His absorbing interest lay in people and how to help them, and his patients were very much his patients, because a strong and helpful bond was formed.

Dr Gill had an exceptionally close family. He is survived by his wife, Hilda, and by his daughters, Janet and Helen.—VMI.

F D M FLOWERDEW

MRCS, LRCP

Dr F D M Flowerdew, an anaesthetist, has died aged 73.

Frank Digby Mackworth Flowerdew was born in India, and educated at Framlingham College and St Thomas's Hospital Medical School, where he qualified in 1937. During the war he served in France and with the East African Command in Kenya, Abyssinia, and Madagascar, reaching the rank of lieutenant colonel. After the war he worked in the Royal Victoria Hospital, Boscombe, and then returned to east Africa to join a general practice in Nairobi. He soon developed an interest in anaesthetics which became progressively more full time. He helped set up the first intensive care unit in Kenya, at Nairobi Hospital. On returning to England to live in Ferndown, Dorset, in 1979 he continued with anaesthetic work for the East Dorset Health Authority until his 70th birthday.

Dr Flowerdew was a quiet, reserved man. Outside his work he had been a squash player of the highest standard and a formidable tennis player, and in later years he enjoyed playing golf.

He is survived by his wife, Margot; two sons, both of whom are doctors; a daughter, who became a nurse; and six grandchildren.

A B WILLIAMSON

OBE, TD, MD, DPH

Dr A B Williamson, the first senior administrative medical officer of Leeds Regional Hospital Board, died at Harrogate on 18 November. He was 92.

Alexander Boyd Williamson was born in Paisley but educated at Ayr. Modern dux of Ayr Academy, he won a scholarship to Edinburgh University, where he matriculated in 1913. After the outbreak of war he enrolled in the artillery unit of the officers' training corps, volunteered for active service, and, early in 1915, was commissioned into the Royal Field Artillery. He finished the war as captain and adjutant of a brigade in Allenby's drive from Egypt into Palestine and Syria in 1918. Demobilised in 1919, he returned to Edinburgh University, graduating MA, BSc in pure science and then MB, ChB in 1923. He took a prominent part in student activities, being president of the students' union and senior president of the Royal Medical Society of Edinburgh.

After working as a resident in fever, venereal disease, and tuberculosis hospitals Alex Williamson committed himself to a career in public health and was successively deputy medical officer of health of Somerset, Leeds, and Portsmouth before being appointed medical officer of health of Portsmouth in 1933. He raised a territorial field ambulance in Portsmouth in 1938 and was mobilised with it in 1939 as lieutenant colonel and commanding officer. In 1940, however, when Portsmouth began to be bombed, he was released at the city's request and

resumed command of its casualty services. For his distinguished work throughout repeated heavy bombing he was awarded the OBE in 1945. In 1947 he was appointed senior administrative medical officer to Leeds Regional Hospital Board and played a key part in taking over some 200 hospitals and merging them into a coordinated service for eight county boroughs and three counties. He retired from this post in 1960.

An instinctively kindly and invariably courteous man, Alex Williamson remained active and independent into his late 80s. As senior elder of St Paul's Presbyterian Church, Harrogate, he was a support to a succession of ministers. His strong Christian faith manifested itself also in many unobtrusive kindnesses to friends and acquaintances. Sadly, he spent his last years in a nursing home in slowly failing health and increasing discomfort. His wife, Nan, predeceased him by many years, but he is survived by three sons (two of them doctors) and several grandchildren and great grandchildren.—RS.

ROMA N CHAMBERLAIN

MB, CHB, FFCM, DCH, CPH, DOBSTRCOG

Dr Roma N Chamberlain (Mrs Orton), latterly an epidemiologist at the Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale, died in Cambridge on 19 December aged 66.

Roma Nancy Chamberlain graduated in medicine from Bristol University in 1944 and then worked at Bristol Maternity Hospital for some time. She subsequently served as assistant medical officer of health in Reading and Eastbourne and as an inspecting officer with the Home Office. Later she was appointed a principal medical officer in the Ministry of Health and became a director of the National Birthday Trust. She was also a lecturer in social paediatrics at St Mary's Hospital Medical School, London, and a medical epidemiologist at the Central Public Health Laboratory at Colindale with a special interest in polio and other virus infections. She had also written a book on child development and was honoured only last month by being appointed a vice president of the National Association of Maternity and Child Welfare.

After her retirement Roma devoted a great deal of her time to music and weaving. She is survived by her husband, Dr William Orton, who now lives in Cambridge.—DFC.



LORD HUNT OF FAWLEY

CBE, DM, FRCP, FRCS, FRCP

SJH writes: While still a house surgeon at Barts John Hunt (obituary, 16 January, p218) showed his dedication and flair for innovation in the interests of patients. In no way were these qualities better developed than when, having expressed the need for a College of General Practice, he was invited to meet the BMA's General Practice Review Committee in the autumn of 1951. There he made the acquaintance of Fraser Rose, of Preston, and from their meeting the founding of the college followed.